

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554
Re:
MM Docket No. 99-25 (LPFM Proceeding)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to thank the FCC Commissioners for their recent steps towards licensing new low power FM radio stations. As a supporter of the Chicago Independent Radio Project (CHIRP), I am writing today to ask you to be sure to allow room for new LPFMs in large markets like Chicago. It's crucial to allow new grassroots radio stations like CHIRP the opportunity to broadcast to our vibrant, diverse urban audiences.

I strongly support the idea of dismissing all pending translator licenses in markets where a set LPFM "floor" could not be met if additional translator licenses were granted. I'd also ask that, moving forward, the Commission make sure there is room for urban LPFMs in the country's largest markets by providing opportunities for waivers for second adjacent channels, as called for in the Local Community Radio Act.

When I was growing up in the Washington, DC suburbs, our local alternative radio station helped me discover my passion for music and allowed me to immerse myself in it, feeling connected to a broader community of listeners. In college, I trained as a DJ for our college radio station, and now volunteer my time regularly with CHIRP—radio is still a huge part of my adult life. When I spin the dial through stations today, though, I mostly hear the same songs over and over, rather than the diversity of voices and sounds that once inspired me. Licensing additional translators would only serve to extend corporate radio's blanket of homogeneity over more listeners' ears, crowding out the sort of eclectic programming that locally based LPFM stations could offer—and that could inspire a passion for music in more kids like me.

Please give groups like CHIRP the chance to apply for broadcast licenses by providing the flexibility to ensure frequencies can be found to license new LPFMs in urban areas.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathalie Lagerfeld

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Chicago Independent Radio Project